life are among the specimens recently received from Saudi Arabia by Mr. Joseph Slevin, Curator of Herpetology in the California Academy of Sciences. The collection of snakes, lizards, and amphibians numbering some 200 specimens was made by Mr. John Gasperetti and sent to the Academy through the courtesy of the Arabian American Oil Company. Mr. E. H. Quayle, a former companion of Mr. Slevin on collecting trips in this country, is now in Arabia and it was he who aroused Mr. Gasperetti's interest in obtaining the specimens.

Staff News

Dr. Wilbert M. Chapman, the Academy's Curator of Fishes, presented a paper on the Pacific tuna fishery at the Twelfth National Wildlife Conference held at San Antonio, Texas, February 3–5.

Miss Mary Lou Perry has transferred from the Department of Fishes to the Department of Birds and Mammals. Her place in the Department of Fishes is being taken by Mrs. Robert P. Dempster.

Mrs. H. L. Hill is now office assistant in place of Mrs. E. E. Raun who resigned recently.

Mr. John Thomas Howell of the Department of Botany has during the past year been making a special study of the area burned over in the great Marin County fire of 1945. A report of his findings, entitled "Carbonated Landscape," was published in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* for December 1946.

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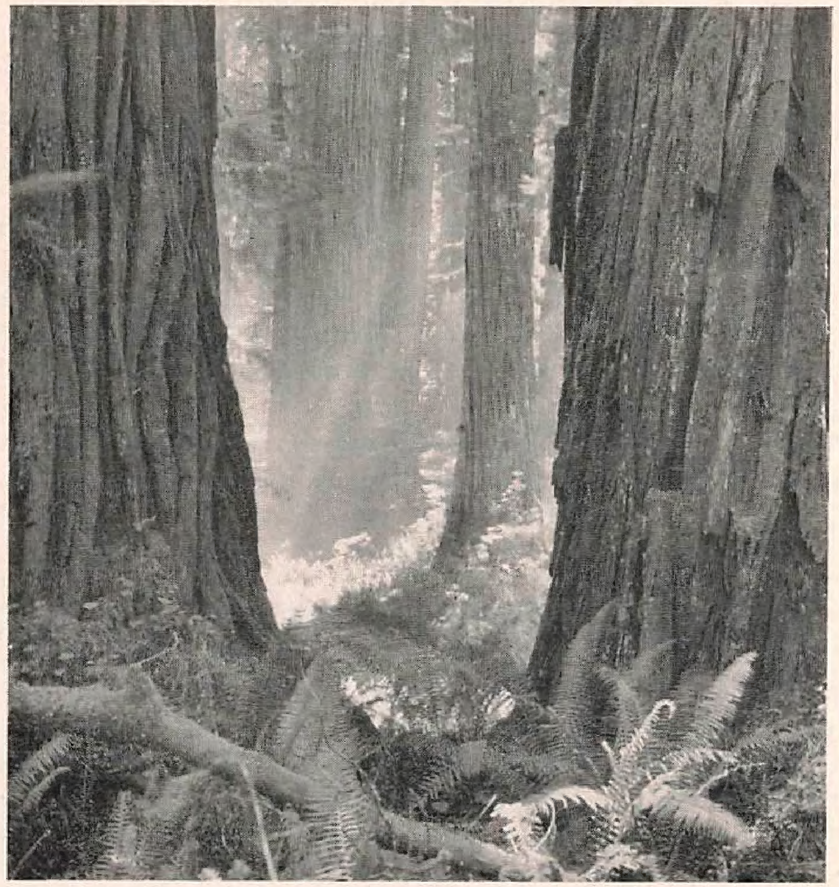
ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

Number 86 February, 1947



IN THE NATIONAL TRIBUTE GROVE OF REDWOODS

Observe California Conservation Week, March 7–14

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February Announcement

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in North American Hall, West Wing of the Academy Buildings in Golden Gate Park, Wednesday evening, February 19, 1947, at eight o'clock. At this meeting the election of officers for the ensuing year will be announced and the annual reports of the Academy will be presented.

All members and friends of the Academy are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. During the afternoon of February 19, 1947, between the hours of 2:00 and 4:30 o'clock, the various research departments of the Academy will be open to those who desire to visit them.

On account of the Annual Meeting there will be no Scaife Lecture in February. This series will be resumed with a lecture by Allan Cruickshank on March 25, entitled "South Along the Suwannee."

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting in February approved the applications of Mr. Richard Detert, Miss Elizabeth A. Jerrel and Dr. Dexter N. Richards for MEMBERSHIP, and of Clifford Harrington, Edgar Howe, Albert Jones, Robert Maddock, Edward Routery, and Lionel Schmidt for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after February 14, they will be considered elected.

LEAFLETS OF WESTERN BOTANY

THE JANUARY 31, 1947, issue of *Leaflets of Western Botany* commences Volume 5 of this important journal, owned and published by Miss Alice Eastwood and Mr. John Thomas Howell of the Academy's Department of Botany. This journal, unique in its field in that it stresses the western flora, is published quarterly. Begun in 1932, it has many times served its purpose as a ready and prompt outlet for contributions of the Botany Department.

The current issue contains papers by Miss Eastwood, Mr. Howell, and Dr. Thomas Kearney, all of the Academy's staff, and in addition two important contributions by Mr. R. C. Barneby, an enthusiastic member of the California Academy of Sciences who has given many specimens to its collections.

HIGH OCTANE

ON JANUARY 19, Miss Alice Eastwood, Curator of the Academy's Department of Botany, celebrated her eighty-eighth birthday. She thrived on the luncheons, dinners and teas with which her fellow plant-lovers took note of the occasion. Among the organizations which honored her were the American Fuchsia Society, the California Horticultural Society, the San Francisco Garden Club, and the California Spring Blossom and Wild-flower Association.

Coming to the Academy as its Curator of Botany in 1892, Miss Eastwood has set the pace for enthusiasm in research for fifty-five years.

A recent visitor to the Academy inquired of the Director, "Is it true that your Curator of Botany is an octogenarian?"

"Yes," replied Dr. Miller promptly. "High octane, too!"

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLANTS

THE DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY of the California Academy of Sciences recently received some 1600 specimens of southern California plants, sent by Dr. Philip A. Munz, Director of the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, Orange County, California. Dr. Munz is a life member of the Academy and a specialist on the native flora of California.

ORIENTAL BIRDS

DR. ROBERT T. ORR, Curator of Birds and Mammals in the California Academy of Sciences, announces that Colonel L. R. Wolff, ornithologist and specialist on birds of the Orient, has gone to Korea where he will do collecting for the Academy. Mr. Anatole S. Loukashkin, Research Associate of the Academy, is already in Korea where he is working on a similar project. The combined contributions of these two workers should make the Academy's collection of Korean birds one of the best.

ARABIAN SERPENTS

BOAS WITH EYES on top of the head so that they can see while lying flush with the surface of the sand; skinks that have shovel noses so that they can burrow in the sand; these and many other interesting creatures with peculiar adaptations to desert